

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-15, 18-23, and 25-28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 14, 27, and 28 are in independent form. Claims 3, 4, 11, 16, 17, and 24 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 5-10, 12-14, 18-23, and 25-28 have been amended to more clearly define what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated February 8, 2006, it is stated that Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0107356 (Shamoon et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,985 (Fukushima et al.). Cancellation of Claims 3, 4, 11, 16, 17, and 24 renders their rejections moot. Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 14, 27, and 28, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention, as set forth in Claim 1, is directed to an information processing apparatus for demultiplexing and decoding a bitstream, which contains a plurality of object data and management information for managing each of the plurality of object data, and for reproducing the plurality of object data. The apparatus includes input means, extraction means, determination means, and output means.

The input means functions to input a plurality of coded object data and management information for managing each of the plurality of coded object data. The extraction means functions to extract, from the management information, time limit information. The time limit information is information indicating when reproduction is

permitted and pertains to a time limit set for each of the plurality of coded object data. For each of the plurality of coded object data, the determination means functions to determine whether or not a time is within a time limit of reproduction, based on the time limit information. If it is determined that the time is within the time limit of reproduction of a coded object data, the output means functions to decode the coded object data and to synthesize and output the decoded object data.

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that the apparatus prevents the excessive use of object data by utilizing time limits that are respectively set for a plurality of coded object data. Only when a time is within a time limit set for a coded object data may that coded object data be decoded. By virtue of this feature, unauthorized use of the object data may be avoided.

Shamoon et al. is discussed in the previous Amendment filed on November 9, 2005, and relates to a system for protecting streamed media through the use of different decryption keys for different portions of a stream of data. In the Office Action, it is alleged that Shamoon et al. discloses all the features of Claim 1, except for the extraction means.

Fukushima et al. relates to a system for improving the transmission quality of real-time transmissions. Apparently, Fukushima et al. teaches the use of packets, with each packet including a sequence number, a priority, and a data reproduction time, with the latter being understood to relate to a time for retransmission of the packet when an error has occurred.

Applicant submits that a combination of Shamoon et al. and Fukushima et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest

an information processing apparatus for demultiplexing and decoding a bitstream, which contains a plurality of object data and management information for managing each of the plurality of object data, and for reproducing the plurality of object data. More specifically, the cited combination fails to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes “input means for inputting a plurality of coded object data and management information for managing each of the plurality of coded object data,” and “extraction means for extracting, from the management information, time limit information, which pertains to a time limit set for each of the plurality of coded object data, wherein the time limit information is information indicating when reproduction is permitted,” and “determination means for determining whether or not a time is within a time limit of reproduction, based on the time limit information, for each of the plurality of coded object data,” and “output means for decoding a coded object data, and synthesizing and outputting the decoded object data, if it is determined that the time is within the time limit of reproduction,” as recited in Claim 1.

As conceded in the Office Action, Shamoon et al. fails to disclose the claimed extraction means, which extracts time limit information from the management information. The time limit information pertains to a time limit set for each of the plurality of coded object data, and indicates when reproduction is permitted. That is, the time limit set for a coded object data indicates when it is permitted to reproduce the object data corresponding to that coded object data.

Fukushima et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Shamoon et al. As discussed above, Fukushima et al. relates to a data transmission technique for controlling

retransmission of error packets. Fukushima et al. teaches that retransmission of an error packet is stopped when the retransmission time does not corresponding to the reproduction time for that error packet, thus reducing unnecessary retransmission of error packets. More particularly, Fukushima et al. is understood to merely disclose that each packet has information on its reproduction time, and a request for retransmission is sent if a time that a data reception apparatus is to receive retransmitted packets is within a time limit for arrival of the retransmitted packets.

Fukushima et al. fails to even address the feature of preventing excessive or unauthorized use of an object data, such that an object data is permitted to be decoded, synthesized, and output only when it is determined that the time is within a time limit for use of the object data.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 14, 27, and 28 include features similar to those of Claim 1 and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in this application depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 14 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

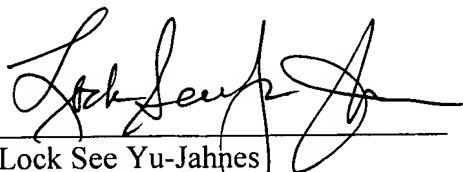
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lock See Yu-Jahnes', written over a horizontal line.

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